

served our nation so bravely on September 11th. To these heroes, I offer my continuing respect, admiration and support.

HONORING NANCY HABERLAND,
OLYMPIC ATHLETE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Nancy Haberland, for her participation in the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad.

In her Olympic debut this August, Nancy Haberland was forward in the Yngling boat. Ms. Haberland, along with skipper Carol Cronin and middle Liz Filter made up Team Atkins. The yngling class was one of the most closely contested races at the U.S. Olympic trials. In a remarkable achievement, Team Atkins beat out a field that included a previous Yngling world champion, Betsy Alison, and past Olympians Jody Swanson and Cory Sertl. Ms. Haberland has also won numerous national titles in several classes.

Nancy Haberland grew up in Northbrook, Illinois and started sailing at the age of 13. In 1984, she graduated from Miami University in Ohio with a degree in dietetics and management, and she is a registered dietitian. She serves our country now as a sailing coach at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, and I am privileged to represent her in Congress.

It has been said that the trademarks of a champion are, "The will to prepare, the guts to risk, and the desire to be the best." Ms. Haberland certainly possesses all three, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her.

SALUTING AMBASSADOR YUVAL
ROTEM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ambassador Yuval Rotem, who served as consul general of Israel in Los Angeles from September 1999 to August 2004. Ambassador Rotem recently wrote an article for the Los Angeles Daily News on his experiences in Southern California that I would like to share with you today.

L.A.'s STORY ABOUT LIVING SIDE BY SIDE
(By Yuval Rotem)

Critics say Los Angeles is only image. The city, they claim, presents an illusion to the world much like the movies Hollywood projects on its big screens. The myth goes that it's a city of facades, with the favored tools being the editor's airbrush or the plastic surgeon's scalpel. There are no friendships here, only contacts and connections.

After five years on "extended vacation" in Southern California, I have found these statements far more superficial than the city they decry. As a permanent resident of the tormented Middle East, my time here has left me in awe of the wide variety of reli-

gions, colors, languages and life philosophies that intermingle in Los Angeles. To be a minority is to be in the majority in L.A., and despite its fragmented sprawl, coexistence is real, with each community adding to the flavor of the city.

That is not to say, however, there aren't absurd aspects about life in Los Angeles. There is, for example, the infatuation with cars and the impossibly tangled web of freeways. When we "bump into" people, it is likely in the most literal sense—a fender bender on the 405.

It is little wonder, then, that I learned one of L.A.'s more important lessons with the help of my car. Traveling on the 10 alone opened my eyes to the multitude of faces, languages, cuisines and cultures that run into each other here.

Starting in Venice, the stereotypical images of L.A.—beach bums soaking in the sun and fitness fanatics pumping iron at Muscle Beach—abound. Moving east, the Jewish neighborhood of the Pico corridor became a second home for me. On my way downtown, I stopped in Koreatown, historic West Adams district and eventually in East L.A.—making friends in each community: each group diverse, each group proud, each group American.

I traveled this freeway and others often during my tenure here—visiting a variety of communities along the way. What I have learned here has given me a Thomas Guide of sorts to maneuver and navigate through our differences to arrive ultimately at our similarities.

Dorothy Parker once described Los Angeles as "72 suburbs in search of a city," but I sometimes wonder how badly they really want to find it. The communities I passed on my drive down the 10 didn't seem to be looking for it; they already appeared to be perfectly at home and at peace as Angelenos. On July 4, for instance, people from all over this city simply don't appear interested to gather en masse at some civic center, but prefer neighborhood parades, local fireworks displays, and backyard barbecues.

Despite this geographic disconnection, the people of Los Angeles are nonetheless remarkably united. They share the same debates about Kobe vs. Shaq, the same frustrations with the traffic, the same concerns about schools and public safety, the same appreciation for the amazing beauty and vibrant cultural life that L.A. has to offer.

Most importantly, the diverse population of this city shares a truly laudable spirit of respect and tolerance for "the other." There have been, of course, many tough times. However, friendships and relationships that transcend ethnicity and religion are the norm here. By and large, people relate to each other as individuals—not as groups, not as categories, not as stereotypes.

As one who comes from the Middle East, where ethnic divisions have paralyzed us, I am in awe of the positive cross-cultural interaction between the people of Los Angeles.

From the inside, it is easy to see the problems—social and economic inequality, tensions that sometimes bubble to the surface, the challenge of educating 750,000 children who collectively speak more than 80 languages. It would be easy to focus on the chaotic events that have marked my time here: the energy crisis, wildfires, earthquakes and the recall election. Yet to me, an outsider, Los Angeles is something of a miracle.

At the end of the day, you see millions of people from every background imaginable living side by side, working together and forging a future under the bright California sun. In today's world, where terrorism, prejudice and hatred widen the already-existing gaps between peoples, this is an inspiration.

As I return to my own homeland, I carry with me the hope and promise that Los Angeles offers to the future—a fitting going-away present from the city of dreams.

TRIBUTE TO PETER VANDERKAAAY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Peter Vanderkaay, a resident of Oakland Township, Michigan, on his Olympic gold medal he won at the XXVIII Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. He has made all of us from Oakland County and Michigan proud.

Peter won his gold medal on the men's 4 × 200 meter freestyle swimming relay team, swimming the third leg of the race. Peter and his teammates, Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte, and Klete Keller, set a new American record on their way to beating Australia by 0.13 seconds. It is the first time an American Olympic team has won this race since 1996.

Peter was a standout in high school swimming for Rochester Adams High School where he earned four varsity letters. He is a Michigan State champion in the 200 yard freestyle and a two-time Michigan State champion in the 500 yard freestyle. He was also selected as the 2002 Oakland Press Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Peter will return to the University of Michigan this fall as a junior and will continue to swim for the school and Club Wolverine. His accomplishments are overwhelming and impressive, especially considering it has only taken him two years to reach these achievements. Peter is a seven-time NCAA All-American, was the 2004 Co-Big Ten Conference Swimmer of the Year, the 2003 Big Ten Conference Freshman of the Year, and a six-time Big Ten Champion.

Being a world-class swimmer takes dedication and resolve. It takes sacrifice and long hours of practice. It is not always immediately rewarding and there are many challenges before becoming a champion. I commend Peter on his determination.

I also realize raising a swimmer is not easy and that is why Peter's parents, Mark and Robin, deserve recognition for their hard work over the years. In fact, they have raised four swimmers; Peter's brothers Christian, Alex and Dane are accomplished swimmers in their own right.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Peter Vanderkaay on his Olympic success and wish him all the best in his future endeavors, both in and out of the pool.

HONORING RHADI FERGUSON

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Rhadi Ferguson, a Maryland resident who proudly represented the United States as a member of its Judo Team in the games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad.

A three-time national Judo champion, Rhadi was born in Portland Oregon, and earned a football scholarship to Howard University where he also wrestled and ran track. Rhadi won the 2004 U.S. Judo Trials in June and a bronze medal at the 2004 Pan American Games.

Rhadi Ferguson is an academic champion as well, having earned a master's degree in teaching at Howard University with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, and he is now pursuing his doctorate in education.

Although many consider judo to be very similar to wrestling, the sport has as its origins in the ancient Japanese art of jujutsu, a system of hand-to-hand combat that is more than 2,000 years old.

Dr. Jigoro Kano, the founder of modern Judo, introduced many of the current techniques used today, and he is largely credited with Judo's inclusion in the 1964 Olympic Games. Kano described the sport as "the way to the most effective use of both physical and spiritual strength. By training you in attacks and defenses, it refines your body and your soul and helps you make the spiritual essence of Judo a part of your very being. In this way you are able to perfect yourself and contribute something of value to the world. This is the final goal of Judo discipline."

I am proud that one of my constituents, Rhadi Ferguson, has achieved the status of national champion, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his participation in the 2004 Olympic Games.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WISCONSIN FIFTH DISTRICT OLYMPIC MEDAL WINNERS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to four Americans who went to Athens to compete in the 28th Olympic Games last month, and came back as Olympic medal winners. With ties to Wisconsin's Fifth District, they are: Chris Ahrens (Whitefish Bay), Paul Hamm and Morgan Hamm (Town of Waukesha), and Bezie Madden (Bayside).

Winner of the gold medal in the U.S. Men's Eight (rowing), Chris started rowing by going out with his dad to the Milwaukee Rowing Club at 6 years of age. After finishing fifth in the 2000 Olympics in the Men's Eight, Chris retired and took 3 years off. Fortunately for America, in 2003, he changed his mind and returned to the sport to represent his Nation with success.

In the sport of gymnastics, Wisconsin was represented by Olympic gold and silver medal winner Paul Hamm, and his twin brother, Morgan Hamm, a silver medalist. Growing up on a farm in Waukesha, the Hamm twins practiced on makeshift equipment—a pommel horse constructed out of a maple tree, and the upholstery of a car; rings hung up in the attic; a trampoline set up in the barn, and parallel bars made from a stairway railing. This goes to show that you don't need state of the art equipment to create champions—you need heart.

In Athens, Bezie (Elizabeth) Madden was an integral part of the U.S. equestrian team that took the silver medal in Team Jumping. Nicknamed after her great-grandmother, Bezie took her first riding lesson at the age of 3. She got her first horse as a Christmas present when she was 4, and 2 years later, she competed in her first horse show.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all four of these athletes for representing our country with such honor, and congratulate them on their success.

RECOGNIZING PURDUE PHARMA AND LIFETIME LEARNING SYS- TEMS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the wonderful work of Purdue Pharma, L.P. and the Weekly Reader to educate America's youth on the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

Purdue has partnered with Lifetime Learning Systems, publisher of Weekly Reader, to distribute drug abuse awareness materials, entitled "Painfully Obvious," in selected schools and classrooms throughout the country. Nearly 13,000 middle schools will receive these materials, which include a student discussion guide and a teacher's instructional guide, for distribution to more than 4 million fifth- to eighth-graders. The distribution will cover students throughout the Northeast, South and Midwest.

An estimated 9 million people aged 12 and older used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in 1999, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Also, according to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, the sharpest increases in new abusers of prescription drugs occur in 12-25 year olds. NIDA's 2003 Monitoring the Future survey, conducted amongst 8th, 10th and 12th grade high schoolers nationwide, found that Vicodin, a prescription drug, was the second most frequently reported drug used among 12th graders in high school, after marijuana. The same survey also found that 10.5 percent of 12th graders surveyed reported using Vicodin for non-medical reasons and 4.5 percent of 12th graders surveyed reported using OxyContin without a prescription. These statistics indicate a growing problem amongst the nation's teens. Individuals may also visit www.painfullyobvious.com to learn more about this important issue.

A critical first step in the prevention of prescription drug abuse by young people is to equip them with knowledge and information about its potentially devastating effects. America's youth will be in a better position to make the right choices because of this effort.

TRIBUTE TO JANET TRAUTWEIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I rise today to pay tribute to Janet Trautwein for receiving the

Gordon Memorial Award presented by the National Association of Health Underwriters. Since 1949, The National Association of Health Underwriters have been recognizing individuals that have generously and selflessly given their time and effort to the health insurance industry and the financial protection they provide to millions of Americans.

Janet Trautwein is well deserving of this award. She has served the association well as a staffer, but more notably in her years of uncompensated service as a former agent and active volunteer NAHU member in the state of Texas. Ms. Trautwein has exemplified the character of the Gordon Memorial Award by working hard to better the insurance industry without expecting anything in return.

Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever, volunteers are coveted members of our communities, selflessly giving their precious time and effort for the greater good. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Janet Trautwein for her service and for receiving the Gordon Memorial Award from the National Association of Health Underwriters.

FORT KING

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 10, 2004 Fort King of Ocala, Florida was designated as a national historic landmark in front of 200 guests at the downtown square in Ocala, Florida. Many speakers were present and told of the underlying significance of Fort King, where Osceola fought against the United States, as a key fort in a chapter of American history, the Second Seminole War from 1835-1842. Henry Sheldon, an engineer of Gainesville, Florida, who is a member of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, was one of the speakers that evening. Below is his brief account of the historical significance of Fort King:

THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF FORT KING;
FORT KING CEREMONY, MAY 10, 2004

(By Henry A. Sheldon)

Imagine standing at this spot in Florida two hundred years ago. Before you would be an immense forest, unbroken except by rivers, prairies, and lakes. It was said that if a squirrel could leap the rivers, it could walk on the tree tops from St. Augustine to Texas.

The sounds were those of the forest—the wind in the pines, the dying crash of a 500 year old mammoth oak, the cry of a hawk in the clouds, or the scream of a panther at the edge of the hammock.

For thousands of years native Americans passed by this spot in pursuit of deer and buffalo. Maybe a hunter sat right where you stand catching his breath as the pursuit continued. Maybe a town stood here. Maybe there were cook fires and children playing over there. The people were dressed in deerskins.

Then one day a different sound was heard in the forest. It was the sound of wagons, and horses and men shouting orders. "Pull up, veer to the left of that big pine, keep the wagons moving." They were soldiers, heading that way—East, toward the giant Silver Spring. They were dressed in blue and white and carried flintlock muskets similar to those used in the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812. They had orders to build a fort.